

Salinity Change in Florida Bay Due to Hurricane Irma

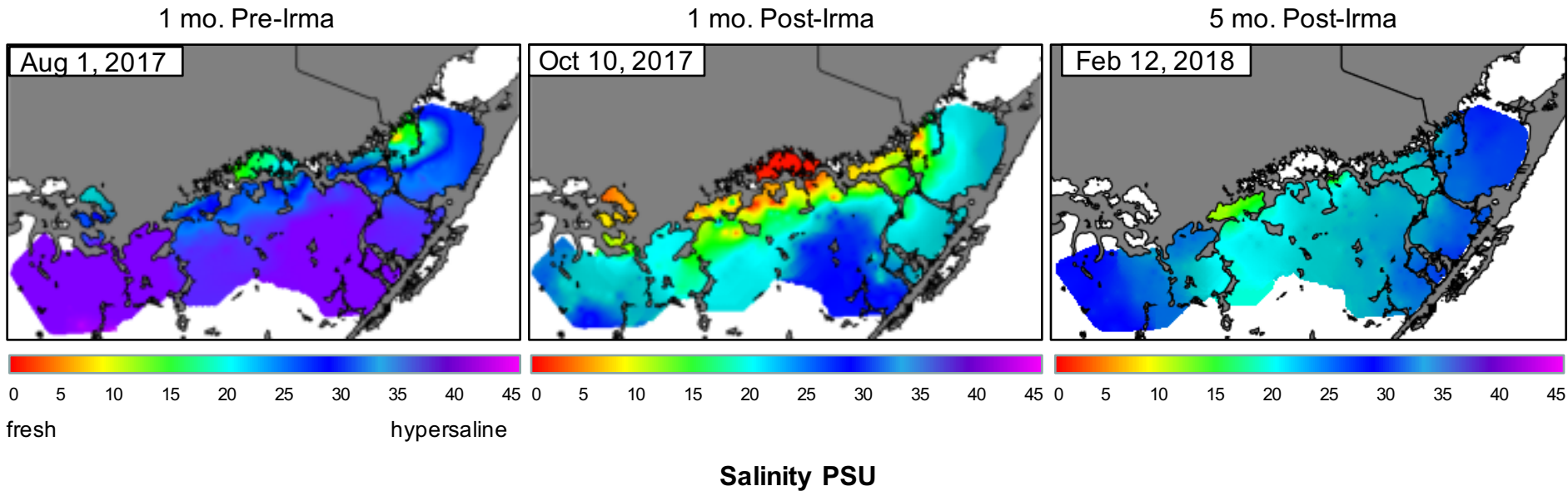


Figure 1. Salinity patterns in Florida Bay one month before, one month after, and five months after Hurricane Irma. High salinity throughout Florida Bay was reduced when Hurricane Irma contributed large amounts of freshwater to the system.

Algal Bloom in Florida Bay Due to Hurricane Irma

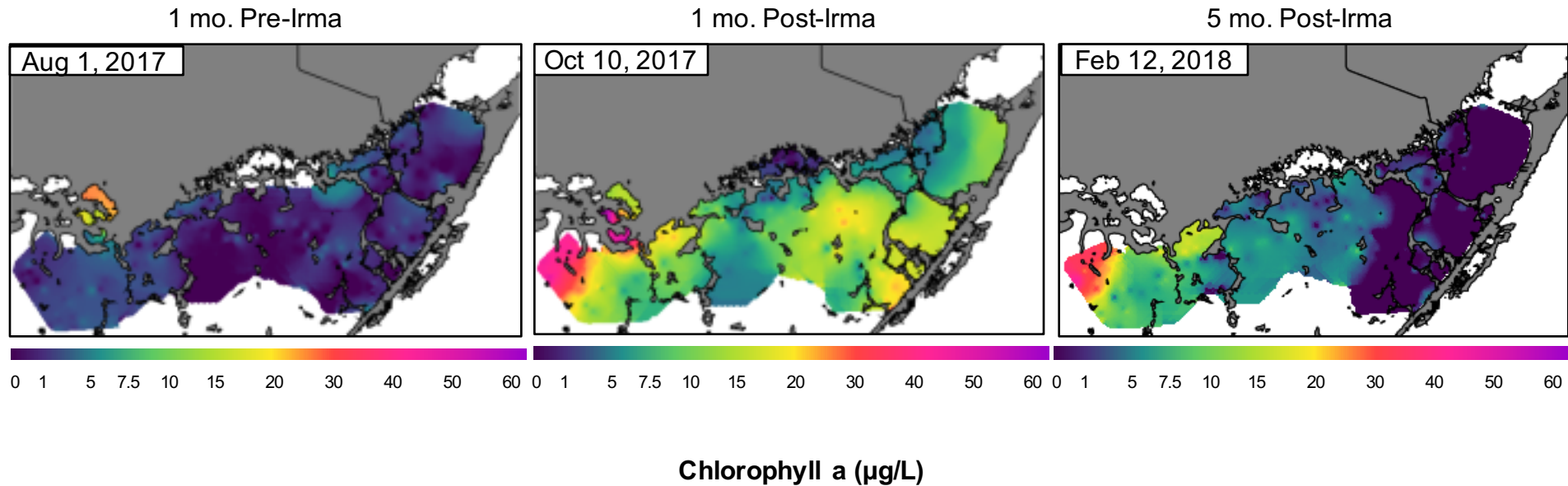


Figure 2. Chlorophyll a patterns in Florida Bay one month before, one month after, and five months after Hurricane Irma. Chlorophyll is an indicator of water column algae concentrations. Algal blooms that developed after the hurricane have begun to dissipate slightly in the central bay and particularly in the eastern bay.

Eastern and Central Bay Chlorophyll

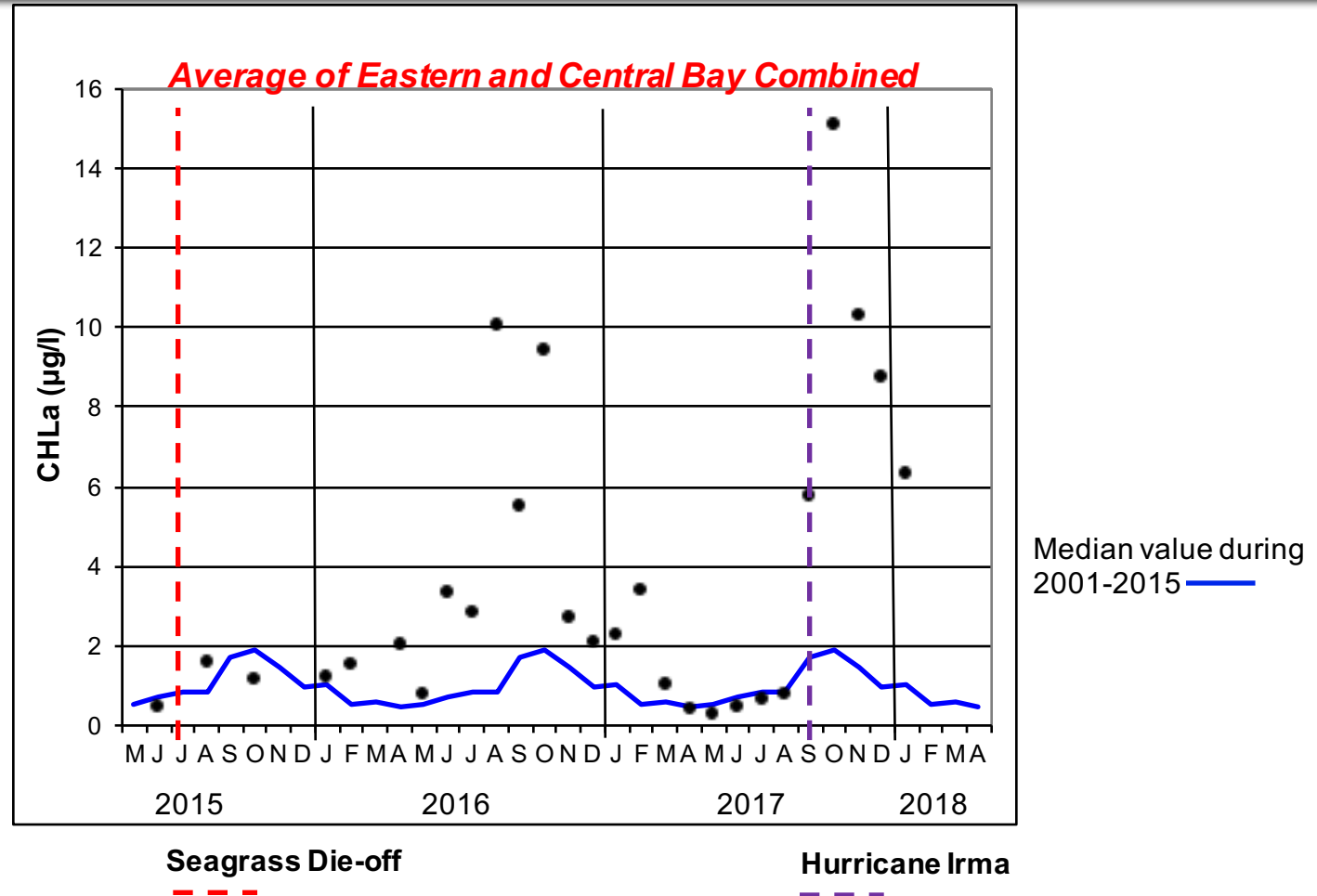


Figure 3. Average chlorophyll a (algal) concentrations in Florida Bay from 2015-2018 versus the historical average (blue line). Algal blooms in 2016 that were caused by nutrient releases from a large seagrass die-off in 2015 had subsided to background levels in 2017 until Hurricane Irma triggered a new bloom.

Eastern and Central Florida Bay Turbidity

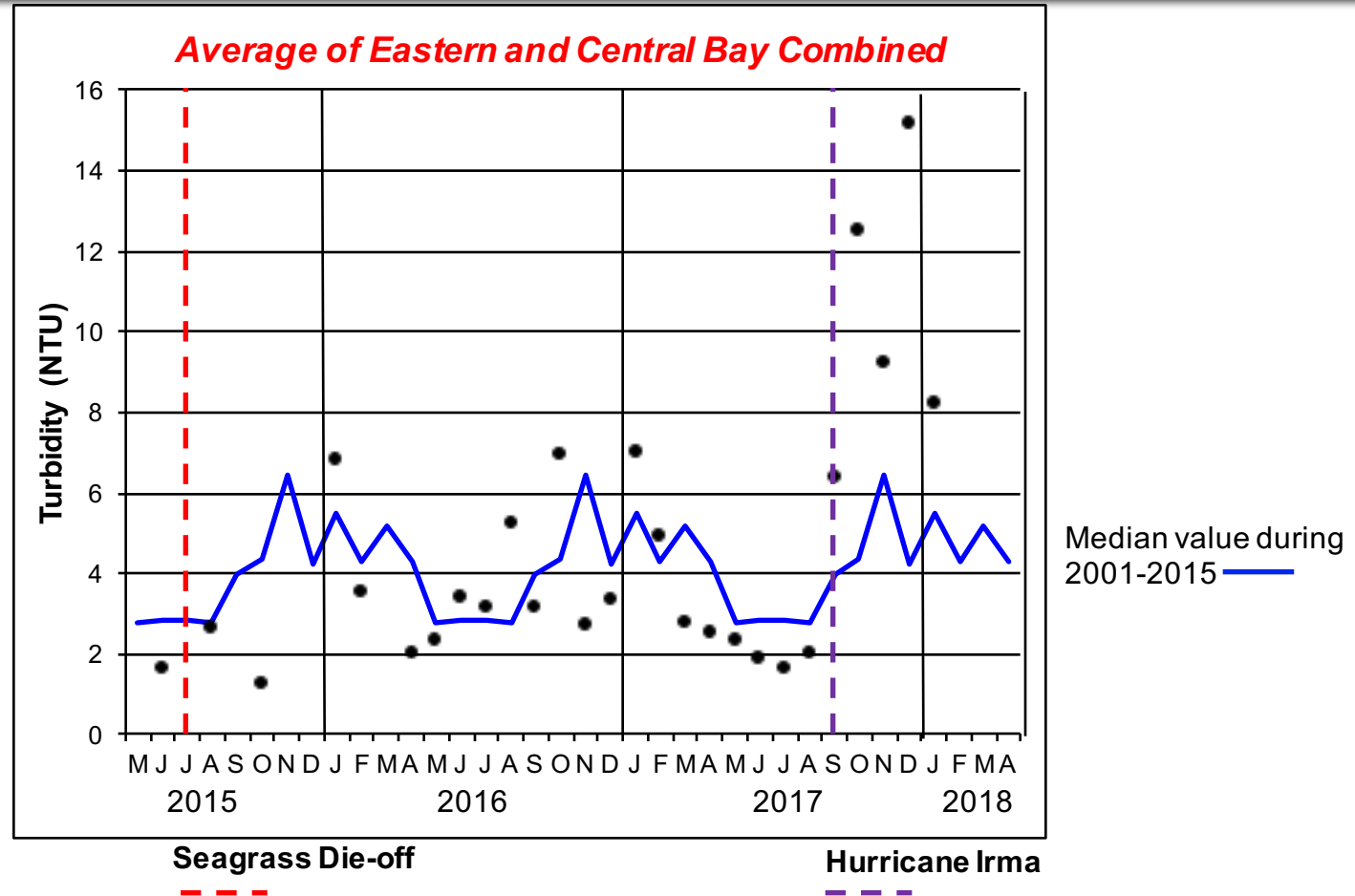


Figure 4. Turbidity in Florida Bay from 2015-2018 versus the historical average (blue line). Hurricane Irma caused high turbidity due to an algal bloom and resuspended bottom sediments.